AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

• Please amend pending claims 1 and 13 and add new claims 26-50 as indicated below. A complete listing of all claims and their status in the application are as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for processing microdevices comprising:

providing a computer system having processing information related to the microdevices as a task;

providing a legacy processing system;

providing a non-legacy processing system for operating independently from the computer system;

providing the task from the computer system to the legacy processing system with constant interaction therebetween;

providing the task from the computer system to the non-legacy processing system for performing the task by the non-legacy processing system independent of the computer system;

developing return non-legacy information resulting from the non-legacy processing system using the task;

returning the return non-legacy information to the computer system;

providing processing system setup and shutdown parameters;

providing processing system process-specific parameters;

providing the processing system setup parameters to the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the non-legacy processing system simultaneously with the processing system setup parameters;

providing the number of processed microdevices to be output from the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;

providing processing system process-specific parameters to the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;

controlling the handling of the microdevices;

processing the microdevices;

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the legacy processing system;

providing a number of microdevices;

determining the number of microdevices processed;

determining the number of microdevices handled; and

developing statistics from the number of microdevices processed and handled.

2. (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

providing a microdevice programming system in the legacy processing system, the legacy processing system having an on-line connection with said computer system; and

programming the microdevices in the microdevice programming system using the task provided through the on-line connection from the computer system to the processing system.

3. (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

providing an operator mode;

providing a microdevice programming system in the non-legacy processing system, the microdevice programming system standing alone from the computer system;

using the processing information for the task in the operator mode in the non-legacy processing system independent from the computer system;

returning return information in the operator mode from the non-legacy processing system using portable medium to the computer system; and

storing the return information in the computer system.

4. (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

providing an administrator mode;

providing programming information related to the task in the administrator mode;

editing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode; and

storing the processing and programming information related to the microdevices for the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system as the task in the administrator mode.

5.   (cancelled)

6.   (cancelled)

7.   (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

serializing the microdevices; and

maintaining a log of the serialized microdevices.

8.   (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

combining a plurality of tasks to define a kit; and

performing the processing of a kit in the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system.

9.   (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

providing microdevice information;

providing processing system setup parameters;

providing format information related to the non-legacy processing system;

inputting the number of processed microdevices to be output from the non-legacy processing system;

providing the processing system setup parameters and format to the non-legacy processing system;

transferring the microdevice information from the computer system to the non-legacy processing system;

transferring the processing system format from the computer system to the non-legacy processing system;

processing the microdevices;

obtaining information from the processing of the microdevices; and

transferring the information from the processing of the microdevices to the computer system.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of: transferring includes the use of a portable memory medium.

11. (original) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of: transferring includes the use of a direct communication connection.

12. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of providing an administrator mode; and

protecting provision of the operator mode using a password input in the administrator mode.

13. (currently amended) A method for processing and programming programmable microdevices comprising:

providing a computer system having processing information and programming information related to the programmable microdevices combined as a task in the computer system;

providing a legacy processing system;

providing a programmer/feeder system for operating independently from the computer system;

providing the task from the computer system to the programmer/feeder system;

performing the task by the programmer/feeder system independent of the computer system by processing and programming the programmable microdevices;

developing return programmer/feeder information resulting from the programmer/feeder system using the processing information;

returning the return programmer/feeder information to the computer system;

providing processing system setup and shutdown parameters;

providing processing system process-specific parameters;

providing the processing system setup parameters to the legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system;

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the programmer/feeder system simultaneously with the processing system parameters;

providing the number of processed programmable microdevices to be output from legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system;

providing the processing system process-specific parameters to legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system;

controlling the handling of the programmable microdevices;

programming the programmable microdevices;

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the legacy processing system;

providing a number of programmable microdevices;

determining the number of programmable microdevices processed;

determining the number of programmable microdevices handled; and

developing statistics from the number of programmable microdevices processed and handled.

14.   (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising:

providing a microdevice programming system in the programmer/feeder system, the programmer/feeder system having an on-line connection with said computer system; and

performing the task by the programmer/feeder dependent on the computer system using programming information obtained through the on-line connection.

15.   (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising:

providing an operator mode;

using portable memory medium to provide the task in the operator mode to the programmer/feeder system independent from the computer system;

returning return programmer/feeder information in the operator mode using the portable memory medium to the computer system; and

storing the return programmer/feeder information in the computer system.

16.   (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 13 comprising:

providing an administrator mode;

providing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode;

editing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode; and

storing the processing and programming information related to the programmable microdevices for the legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system in the administrator mode.

17.   (cancelled)

18.   (cancelled)

19.   (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising:

serializing the programmable microdevices; and

maintaining a log of the serialized programmable microdevices.

20.   (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising:

combining a plurality of tasks to define a kit; and

performing the programming of a kit in the legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder.

21.   (previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising:

providing programmable microdevice information;

providing programmer/feeder system setup parameters;

providing format information related to the programmer/feeder system;

inputting the number of processed programmable microdevices to be output from the programmer/feeder system;

providing the programmer/feeder system setup parameters and format to the programmer/feeder system;

transferring the programmable microdevice information from the computer system to
the processing system;

transferring the programmer/feeder system form from the computer system to the
programmer/feeder system;

processing the programmable microdevices;

obtaining information from the processing of the programmable microdevices; and

transferring the information from the programming of the programmable
microdevices.

22. (original) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the step of:
transferring includes the use of a portable memory medium.

23. (original) The method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the step of:
transferring includes the use of a local area network connection.

24. (original) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of:
providing an administrator mode; and

protecting provision of the operator mode using a password input in the administrator
mode.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the
step of:

providing information for affecting changes selected from a group consisting of
software, firmware, and a combination thereof by using a portable memory
medium.

26. (new) A method for processing microdevices comprising:

providing a computer system having processing information related to the
microdevices as a task;

providing a legacy processing system;

providing a non-legacy processing system;

providing the task from the computer system to the legacy processing system with
constant interaction therebetween;

providing the task from the computer system to the non-legacy processing system for performing the task by the non-legacy processing system independent of the computer system;

developing return non-legacy information resulting from the non-legacy processing system using the task; and

returning the return non-legacy information to the computer system.

27. (new) The method as claimed in claim 26 additionally comprising:

providing a microdevice programming system in the legacy processing system, the legacy processing system having an on-line connection with said computer system; and

programming the microdevices in the microdevice programming system using the task provided through the on-line connection from the computer system to the processing system.

28. (new) The method as claimed in claim 26 additionally comprising:

providing an operator mode;

providing a microdevice programming system in the non-legacy processing system, the microdevice programming system standing alone from the computer system;

using the processing information for the task in the operator mode in the non-legacy processing system independent from the computer system;

returning return information in the operator mode from the non-legacy processing system using portable medium to the computer system; and

storing the return information in the computer system.

29. (new) The method as claimed in claim 26 additionally comprising:

providing an administrator mode;

providing programming information related to the task in the administrator mode;

editing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode; and

storing the processing and programming information related to the microdevices for the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system as the task in the administrator mode.

30.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 26 including additionally comprising:

providing processing system setup and shutdown parameters;

providing processing system process-specific parameters;

providing the processing system setup parameters to the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the non-legacy processing system simultaneously with the processing system setup parameters;

providing the number of processed microdevices to be output from the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;

providing processing system process-specific parameters to the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;

controlling the handling of the microdevices;

processing the microdevices; and

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the legacy processing system.

31.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 30 additionally comprising:

providing a number of microdevices;

determining the number of microdevices processed;

determining the number of microdevices handled; and

developing statistics from the number of microdevices processed and handled.

32.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 30 additionally comprising:

serializing the microdevices; and

maintaining a log of the serialized microdevices.

33.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 26 additionally comprising:

combining a plurality of tasks to define a kit; and

performing the processing of a kit through the off-line connection.

34.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 26 additionally comprising:

providing microdevice information;

providing processing system setup parameters;

providing format information related to the off-line connection;

inputting the number of processed microdevices to be output from the processing
system;

providing the processing system setup parameters and format to the processing
system;

transferring the microdevice information from the computer to the processing system;

transferring the processing system format from the computer to the processing system;

processing the microdevices;

obtaining information from the processing of the microdevices; and

transferring the information from the processing of the microdevices.

35.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 34 wherein:

transferring includes the use of a portable memory medium.

36.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 34 wherein:

transferring includes the use of a direct communication connection.

37.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 26 additionally comprising:

providing an administrator mode; and

protecting provision of the operator mode using a password input in the administrator
mode.

38.   (new)   A   method   for   processing   and   programming   programmable
microdevices comprising:

providing a computer system having processing information and programming
information related to the programmable microdevices combined as a task in
the computer system;

providing a legacy processing system;

providing a programmer/feeder system;

providing the task from the computer system to the programmer/feeder system;

performing the task by the programmer/feeder system independent of the computer system by processing and programming the programmable microdevices;

developing return programmer/feeder information resulting from the programmer/feeder system using the processing information; and

returning the return programmer/feeder information to the computer system.

39. (new) The method as claimed in claim 38 additionally comprising:

providing a microdevice programming system in the programmer/feeder system, the programmer/feeder system having an on-line connection with said computer system; and

performing the task by the programmer/feeder dependent on the computer system using programming information obtained through the on-line connection.

40. (new) The method as claimed in claim 38 additionally comprising:

providing an operator mode;

using portable memory medium to provide the task in the operator mode to the programmer/feeder system independent from the computer system;

returning return programmer/feeder information in the operator mode using the portable memory medium to the computer system; and

storing the return programmer/feeder information in the computer system.

41. (new) The method as claimed in claim 38 additionally comprising:

providing an administrator mode;

providing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode;

editing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode; and

storing the processing and programming information related to the programmable microdevices for the legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system in the administrator mode.

42. (new) The method as claimed in claim 38 additionally comprising:

providing processing system setup and shutdown parameters;

providing processing system process-specific parameters;

providing the processing system setup parameters to the legacy processing system and
the programmer/feeder system;

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the programmer/feeder
system simultaneously with the processing system parameters;

providing the number of processed programmable microdevices to be output from
legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system;

providing the processing system process-specific parameters to legacy processing
system and the programmer/feeder system;

controlling the handling of the programmable microdevices;

programming the programmable microdevices; and

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the legacy processing
system.

43.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 42 additionally comprising:

providing a number of programmable microdevices;

determining the number of programmable microdevices processed;

determining the number of programmable microdevices handled; and

developing statistics from the number of programmable microdevices processed and
handled.

44.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 42 additionally comprising:

serializing the programmable microdevices; and

maintaining a log of the serialized programmable microdevices.

45.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 38 additionally comprising:

combining a plurality of tasks to define a kit; and

performing the programming of a kit in the legacy processing system and the
programmer/feeder.

46.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 38 additionally comprising:

providing programmable microdevice information;

providing programmer/feeder system setup parameters;

providing format information related to the programmer/feeder system;

inputting the number of processed programmable microdevices to be output from the
programmer/feeder system;

providing the programmer/feeder system setup parameters and format to the
programmer/feeder system;

transferring the programmable microdevice information from the computer system to
the processing system;

transferring the programmer/feeder system form from the computer system to the
programmer/feeder system;

processing the programmable microdevices;

obtaining information from the processing of the programmable microdevices; and

transferring the information from the programming of the programmable
microdevices.

47.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 46 wherein:

transferring includes the use of a portable memory medium.

48.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 47 wherein:

transferring includes the use of a local area network connection.

49.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 38 additionally comprising:

providing an administrator mode; and

protecting provision of the operator mode using a password input in the administrator
mode.

50.   (new)   The method as claimed in claim 38 additionally comprising:

providing information for affecting changes selected from a group consisting of
software, firmware, and a combination thereof by using the portable memory
medium.